



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE February 21, 2007

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Senate Bill 86 - An Act Establishing Standards for Early Immunization Against Human Papilloma Virus

The Department of Public Health provides the following information with regard to Senate Bill 86.

The Department of Public Health would like to provide information relevant to the Committee's deliberations on Senate Bill 86 on the current status of standards for immunization against human papillomavirus (HPV). The new vaccine contains the two most common strains of HPV that cause cervical cancer, and is highly protective against infection with them. Cervical cancer is an important public health problem: in Connecticut each year, 130 new cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed resulting in an average of 37 deaths.

Senate Bill 86 would require the Department of Public Health to develop standards for early immunization against human papilloma viruses 16 and 18. Such requirements are not necessary. CGS Section 19a-7f states that "the standard of care for immunization for the children of this state" is "the recommended schedule for active immunization for normal infants and children published by the committee on infectious diseases of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) or the schedule published by the National Immunization Practices Advisory Committee (ACIP)." For 2007, the two groups published together a single recommended schedule that includes HPV vaccine. Specifically, the full 3-dose primary series of injections of HPV vaccine is recommended for all girls aged 11 to 12 years, with catch-up vaccination for all girls 13-18 years of age.

In December 2006, the DPH Immunizations Program began providing to health care providers at no cost to their patients, federally supplied HPV vaccine for vaccination of girls 9-18 years of age who meet eligibility for the Vaccines for Children Program (no health insurance, enrolled in Medicaid, or underinsured who get vaccinated at a federally qualifying health center). Currently, the emphasis is on routine immunization of girls 11-12 years old.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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